

House of Representatives

The House met at 11 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Let us pray using the words of President George Washington's prayer for his country.

"Almighty God: We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large. And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplications, we beseech Thee." Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. HAYWORTH] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HAYWORTH led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(Mr. ALLARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, our Contract With America states the following:

On the first day of Congress, a Republican House will require Congress to live under the same laws as everyone else; cut committee staffs by one-third; and cut the congressional budget.

We kept our promise.

It continues that in the first 100 days, we will vote on the following items: A balanced budget amendment—we have kept our promise; unfunded mandates legislation—we have kept our promise; line-item veto—we have kept our promise; a new crime package to stop violent criminals—we have kept our promise; national security restoration to protect our freedoms—we have kept our promise.

Now we are working on: Government regulatory reform; welfare reform to encourage work, not dependence; family reinforcement to crack down on deadbeat dads and protect our children; tax cuts for middle-income families; Senior Citizens' Equity Act to allow our seniors to work without government penalty; commonsense legal reform to end frivolous lawsuits; and congressional term limits to make Congress a citizen legislature.

This is our Contract With America.

NOT EVERYONE IS CELEBRATING THE CONTRACT ON AMERICA

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, today, as Republicans plan yet another celebratory press conference to congratulate themselves for doing the jobs they are paid to do, many Americans are not celebrating.

Children are not celebrating the fact that Republicans will pay for their so-called reform by eliminating all Federal nutrition programs, including the School Lunch Program.

Senior citizens are not celebrating the fact that Republicans will balance the budget by putting Social Security and Medicare on the chopping block.

Police officers are not celebrating the fact that the Republicans' idea of crime control means taking cops off the street and putting guns on the street.

And, finally, working families are not celebrating the fact that the Republicans' idea for cutting waste, means cutting crucial student loan programs that have helped to educate generations of middle class kids.

Once the rhetorical fireworks are over and the smoke has cleared, we will be able to clearly see who stands behind the Republican contract—the very special interest lobbyists they once vowed to drive from this town. The first 50 days of the 104th Congress have given the special interests plenty to celebrate.

HALFWAY POINT OF CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today marks the half-way point of the Contract With America. This Congress has passed more major legislation in 50 days than most other Congresses would

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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